8. Soil conservation should continue to be a priority programme but project funds should not be used for giving loans. A proper land use policy should be developed.

9. There should be closer linkage among different development programmes in the rural sector.

10. There should be exclusive arrangements for implementing the Programme in different districts.

11. There should be regular evaluation of (a) specific programme activities in different projects, and (b) the entire programme in a project by State Governments. At the State level, implementation should be regularly monitored and efforts made to quantify achievements in different sectors. State Governments should constitute teams of experienced personnel of the relevant disciplines to formulate schemes for different project areas and spell out of the details of implementation.

12. Under the DPAP, allocations may continue to be made at the rate of Rs. 15 lakhs per block. The expenditure should continue to be shared equally between the Union and State Governments.

Retrenchment of Contract Labour in Rourkela Steel Plant

1715. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Public Sector Rourkela Steel Plant has recently been held guilty by the State labour officials of illegally retrenching a large number of contract labourers; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons of such retrenchments and the action taken by the Steel Authority of India Ltd. in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Promotion of Tourism in Orissa

1716. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what steps the Central Government have taken to promote tourism in Orissa during the year 1988-89; and

(b) how many tourist centres and Yatri Niwases are proposed to be set up in Orissa during the year 1988-89?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) The Central Ministry of Tourism does not allocate funds Statewise but schemewise for development of tourism infrastructure in the States. The Ministry has received proposals from the Government of Orissa for financial assistance for tourism projects during 1988-89. These would be taken up by the Ministry for financial sanction subject to merits of the proposals, availability of funds and *inter-se* priorities. No Yatri Niwases are proposed to be set up in Orissa during 1988-89 as the two Yatri Niwases already sanctioned. One each at Konark and Satpada, are yet to be completed.

Winding up of the National Council for Safety in Mines

1717. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to wind up the National Council for Safety in Mines;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

whether Government have any assessment of the 25 years ts working; and

(d) whether the objectives and purposes for which it had been established have been ful-filled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (d) The National Council for Safety in Mines was set up in July, 1963 as a tripartite organisation registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 to undertake, aid and promote safety education in mines. The establishment and the activities of the Council received financial support from the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund. With the transfer of the administration of the Fund from the Labour Ministry to the Department of Coal in 1981-82, a decision had to be taken on continuance of the Council, and its financing in the event of its continuance. An Expert Group was set up by the Government on 25th June, 1985 with the following terms of reference:

(A) Whether there is any justification for continuance of the National Council for Safety in Mines;

(B) If it has to continue, what should be its structure, role and functions, source of finance etc.

The Expert Group recommended that the continuance of the National Council for Safety in Mines was fully justified. The report was considered by Government. It was felt that safety was primarily a management function. A substantial programme on mines safety had, in fact, been taken on hand by Coal India Limited after the nationalisation of coal mines. The National Council for Safety in Mines had also not been able to devote its attention to the unorganised sector in mining, on account of lack of resources. It was, therefore, decided by the Government that the National Council for Safety in Mines should be wound up. In the organised sector, the management should themselves be made responsible for safety education. As regards unorganised sector, the Directorate General of Mines Safety should be given the responsibility and that the organisation of the Directorate General of Mines, Safety should be suitably strengthened for the purpose.

Classification of Hotels

1718. SHRI HASHIM RAZA ALLAHABADI ABDI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that hotels are classified as five star and so on keeping in view the interest of foreign tourists, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is a fact that the interest of Indian tourists is not taken into consideration in this regard; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are taking to classify the hotels keeping in view the interest of Indian tourists?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Tourism have formed a Central Classification Committee which inspects and classifies the hotel under 3, 4, 5 and 5-star (deluxe) categories all over the country. The powers to classify 1 & 2-star hotels have been delegated to State Governments/UTs. The State Governments/UTs have, thereofre, constituted their own classification Committees and classify 1 and 2-star hotels in their region only. All categories of hotels are classified by the Central Classification Committee or State Governments/UTs in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Central Government. These guidelines keep in view the interest of all tourists—Indian or foreign.